CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES

Edited by
THE NORTHERN ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Sigtuna, Sweden

Director: Dr. HARRY JOHANSSON, Sigtuna, Sweden
Editor: Rev. JOHS. LANGHOFF, Øster Egesborg per Mern, Denmark

No. 44 January 29th, 1959.

DENMARK

Co-operation Among European Churches to be Continued.

No European Ecumenical Council was established at the European Church Conference at Nyborg Strand from January 6th - 9th, but it was generally agreed that the co-operation among the Churches of Europe should continue. The actual direction of this further co-operation was placed in the hands of the Committee of three which had issued the invitations to the Conference at Nyborg, viz. Bishop Hanns Lilje, Hannover; Dr. Egbert Emmen, Holland, and Archbishop Jaan Kiivit, Estonia. An Advisory Committee of 11 was elected to assist the Committee, viz. Professor Soucek, Czechoslovakia; Professor Wantula, Poland; Rev. Muraközy, Hungary; Professor Parisski, Russia; Professor Cadier, France; Professor d'Espine, Switzerland; President Wilm, West Germany; Bishop Noth, East Germany; Canon Waddams, England; and Bishop H. Fuglsang-Damgaard, Copenhagen, as representative of the Northern countries and the Metropolitan James of Melita as representative of the Patriarchate in Constantinople. As Secretary of the Committee was elected Dr. H.H. Harms who was lent by the World Council of Churches for the preparations for the present conference also.

More than 100 representatives of Churches in 21 European countries took part in the Conference and it was noted that several Churches which are not members of the World Council of Churches were also represented. Among these was the Orthodox Church in the Soviet Union which here for the first time was officially represented at a fair-sized church conference. The representative was the Dean of the Theological Academy in Leningrad, Professor Parisski. The delegates from the Bulgarian and Rumanian Churches, however, did not succeed in getting through for the Conference. One of the East German delegates, Rev. Franz Reinhold Hildebrandt, who is President of the Evangelical Church Union, was refused exit permit and thus prevented from being present at the Nyborg Conference.

On the last day of the Conference it was resolved to distribute various reports from the commissions set up during the Conference to all the European Churches for further study. One of these reports, dealing with the question of the common heritage and responsibility

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Director: Dr. HARRY JOHANSSON, Sigtuna, Sweden

Editor: Rev. JOHS. LANGHOFF, Oster Tørslev per Aars, Denmark

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of European Christendom, admits that Christendom in Europe has incurred guilt and rendered its message untrustworthy, both inside and outside of Europe. It expresses the hope for a new theological frame of mind, for an adaptation of the working methods of the Church to the changed structure of society, and for a common effort in the spirit of Christian charity for reconciliation and peace in the atom age. As regards the tension between East and West the report appeals to the European Churches to listen to one another, to speak with one another, to work together, and to pray for one another. At the request of the Hungarian members an appeal to all powers possessing nuclear weapons was added, requesting them to solemnly renounce such possession in order not to inflict the impending annihilation on Europe and the whole world.

Russian Church Member on the World Council of Churches.

"We hope that membership of the World Council of Churches may become a reality some time in the future", the Russian-Orthodox Church representative at the European Church Conference at Nyborg Strand, Dean of the Theological Academy in Leningrad, Professor Parisski, said in an interview with the "Kristeligt Dagblad" in Copenhagen.

The Professor emphasized that the Russian Church has always sincerely wanted to be on good terms with other Churches in common efforts for the preservation of peace and, in this connection, referred to the 27 journeys abroad of the Metropolitan Nikolaj.

To the question whether the official participation in the Nyborg Conference did not signify a new development in the attitude of the Russian Church towards co-operation with other Churches, Professor Parisski replied:

"It is not a new development, but another step forward in the direction in which we should like to go, viz. the path of practical co-operation."

As regards the relations with the World Council of Churches the Professor said:

"To a large extent we can approve of the aims of the World Council of Churches, but we do not always agree as to the manner in which the problems have been tried to be solved. We could wish the theological questions a more prominent place than has been the case hitherto in the ecumenical co-operation. For this reason we have been a little cautious. My participation in the Conference at Nyborg is a new step in the direction in which we wish to go and we hope that membership of the World Council of Churches may some time in the future become a fact."

Honorary Doctorate Conferred on the German Vicar in Copenhagen.

The degree of honorary doctor at the University of Kiel was conferred on the Rev. W. Görnandt, who for 25 years has been the vicar of the German congregation in Copenhagen, at the church service in the St. Petri Church on January 11th. The degree-giving took place in front of the altar where Rev. Görnandt was seated next to Bishop Dibelius, Berlin, and Bishop H. Fuglsang-Damgaard, Copenhagen, together with a number of Danish and German clergymen. The Document of the degree which was drawn up in Latin was read by the Dean of

the Theological Faculty in Kiel, Professor Greve. Bishop Otto Dibelius delivered the sermon and Bishop Fuglsang-Damgaard thanked Rev. Görnandt for his work during the 25 years.

In an article on the occasion of the silver jubilee the Danish "Kristeligt Dagblad" pays tribute to Rev. W. Görnandt as a bridge builder between Denmark and Germany. He is German by birth, but has now acquired Danish citizenship and is appointed by the Danish Lutheran National Church as vicar of the German congregation in Copenhagen.

The Grundtvigian Youth Associations Leave Inter-Denominational Work.

Following upon a lively discussion at a board meeting the Grundtvigian Youth Associations which work among the young people belonging to the Grundtvigian section within the Danish Lutheran National Church, have resigned from the Ecumenical Youth Council and the Church Society of Education, an inter-denominational study organ established some years ago.

The decision has caused attention in wide circles and certain quarters within the Grundtvigian movement describe it as an expression of the tendency towards isolation which seems to be characteristic in several spheres within the movement.

Bishop States that Church Attendance in Denmark is on the Increase.

While it has been possible up to now to speak of "the empty churches" with a certain amount of truth, it now seems as if the situation is about to change, and although there are no statistics available it is, nevertheless, the opinion of many that church attendance is on the increase. Among these is the Bishop Erik Jensen of Ålborg who in an interview with the "Kristeligt Dagblad" says:

"I believe that it is a sober statement to say that church attendance is slowly increasing during these years. This may possibly not quite fit in with the calculations of certain pessimistic church members, but such is the case, nevertheless. If, for instance, the number of communicants to-day is compared with that of 25 years ago it is quite evident that it has increased in many places. But as far as I can make out it is the Church and what happens in the church building itself which commands the growing interest - it is another matter with regard to religious meetings.

In spite of the unsparingly naked kind of preaching by the clergymen of our generation which often denounces any kind of contemplation as well as even the faintest sign of results in 'the inner man' in connection with Christian life, men of to-day once more reach for true piety and the mystical experience in the fellowship with God. Personally, I have the feeling that this new longing is catching fire in the human mind like fire in dry grass", Bishop Erik Jensen concludes.

Danish Foreign Mission in 1958.

According to a New Year's survey in the "Kristeligt Dagblad", compiled by the Secretary General, Rev. Erik Petersen, 17 Danish foreign mission societies employed 333 missionaries on the mission fields. The total budget of the mission societies in 1958 amounted

to app. 5.8 mill. Danish crowns. The biggest of the societies is the Danish Missionary Society with 97 missionaries and a budget of 2.1 mill. Danish crowns. The Missionary Society in the Sudan employs 55 missionaries and has a budget of 800.000 Danish crowns, and the Moravian Brethren 42 missionaries and a budget of 400.000 Danish crowns.

FINLAND

The Lutheran World Conference in Helsinki (Helsingfors) Being Prepared.

The next assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in Helsinki (Helsingfors) in 1963 is already now under preparation. Last month the Secretary General, Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, visited Finland in order to negotiate with the Lutheran National Committee about the practical arrangements for the Conference. He paid a short visit to Archbishop Salomies in Turku (Åbo).

As it is, the National Committee has elected Bishop Martti Simojoki new President in succession to Archbishop Ilmari Salomies who wished to resign the post and has now been elected Honorary President of the Committee. As new Vice President was elected Professor Heikki Waris.

963 Clergymen in the Congregations of the Finnish National Church.

According to recently published statistics there are 963 clergymen employed in the congregations of the Finnish Lutheran National Church, 590 offices are working full time in the service of the Church and there are 2.579 part time employees in various positions. The Diocese of Tampere (Tammerfors) has the largest number of clergymen, viz. 198, and the Diocese of Borgå (Porvoo) the smallest, viz. 111.

A great number of clergymen are employed by various Church associations and in the educational system.

Stock-Taking of the Evangelization Drive in Helsinki (Helsingfors).

At a clergymen's meeting last month the Secretary General of the evangelization drive in all the Finnish congregations in Helsinki (Helsingfors) during the first half of November, Rev. Samuel Lehtonen, gave a report of the experiences gained through the drive.

With regard to the advance visits in the homes he said that the uneasiness with which one had anticipated the reception of the callers in the homes had proved unfounded. In the large majority of cases they had been well received some times even with coffee and cakes standing ready, and many had asked why no one from the congregation had come to them before.

The number of calls made has not been finally made out, but it is known that 557 callers have paid app. 37.000 visits. In a congregation where 5.500 calls were made only 2 were definitely turned down. In another parish 1% of the homes took up an unsympathetic attitude. In many hundred cases a real discussion was started.

One of the working methods of the campaign was the discussions in smaller groups. There were 184 such smaller meetings in 13 parishe altogether and the experiences have been positive in almost every case.

The attendance at the church services during the campaign, on the other hand, was rather a disappointment. It was smaller than had been hoped for. The churches were filled, it is true, but that is often the case also at the ordinary Sunday services.

The largest attendance was obtained at the meetings during the first week of the drive at which the Senator Oskari Tokoi, U.S.A., spoke. His participation in the campaign has been sharply criticized, for that matter, by both the Communists and by certain Church circles The meetings during the last week were rather poorly attended in some places. A certain weariness in regard to meetings seemed to be evident, and, consequently, it is contemplated to cut down the length of such an evangelization campaign to one week instead of two.

Suggestion for Leaving the Churches Open Also on Weekdays.

Through the Cathedral Chapters the Bishops in the Finnish Lutheran National Church have appealed to the congregations all over the country to leave the churches open for quiet devotions also on weekdays.

Centenary of the Finnish Mission Covenant Church.

The Finnish Mission Covenant celebrated the centenary of its foundation by a number of special functions both in Finland and on the mission field in Amboland, beginning with special church services on Sunday, January 18th.

Large Boys' Choir Being Trained in Helsinki (Helsingfors).

In 1953 the congregation of the Storkyrka in Helsinki (Helsingfors) founded a boys' church choir, called 'Cantores Minores', under the direction of the conductor Peter Lacovich from Vienna. About 100 boys now take part in the practices of the choir. They are divided in A- and B-groups, the boys receiving a 2-years' preliminary training in the B-group before they can be admitted to the A-group. The choir has given a number of successful concerts; among other places, in Stockholm. The programme includes, among other things, Bach's St. John's Passion, Beethoven's and Mozart's Masses in D-major and Monteverdi's Vespers. The choir foundation is planning to set up a special music school as soon as it can collect sufficient funds.

40 Years' Anniversary of the Union of Parish Work in the Finnish Lutheran National Church.

This month the Union of Parish Work in the Finnish Lutheran National Church celebrates its 40-years' anniversary. The purpose of the Union is to draw members of the congregation from different classes of community and different environments into active work. After the last war, especially, the sphere of action of the Union has been extended. It deals with social problems of education, radio broadcasts, and marriage guidance. The Union with committees and secretaries, is an independent voluntary organization, but co-operating with the official Church organs to the widest possible extent

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Bishop G.O. Rosenqvist on the Duty of Politicians.

The Bishop of the Swedish diocese in Finland, Bishop G.O. Rosenqvist, has published a noteworthy article in the "Hufvudstadsbladet" about the responsibility of politicians. The article appeared shortly before the formation of the new Finnish Government. The Bishop expresses the disquiet and worry felt in large circles with regard to the situation and continues:

"The political passion has become so intense that it ventures to enter into a thoughtless, self-centred gamble with the welfare of the Nation. No collaboration and no progress in regard to the common task is possible in the long run if one cannot trust the honest intentions of one another. The individual - and more especially the politician - needs to be sensitive to the voice of his own conscience and to be keenly aware of the fact that his manner of living and acting is of consequence to others and to the community. Without these qualities he cannot count on having the full confidence of others.

A non-politician has no chance of judging all the factors contributing to the situation of the day. But the debates and negotiations have revealed inner tensions, a failing self-discipline, and little feeling of responsibility, to such an extent that wide circles in the community must react to it, indignantly and seriously alarmed."

Withdrawals from the Church a Challenge to the Church.

In a leading article the weekly in Swedish "Församlingsbladet" deals with the increasing number of resignations from the Lutheran National Church (see CN No. 22). The Swedish congregations in Helsinki (Helsingfors) have lost almost 1% of their members during the past year, the paper writes, and this situation must not leave the Church unaffected. It must be acknowledged as a problem, not because of the weakening of the economy of the Church, but because the Church is responsible for the spiritual life of its members.

The reason for the many withdrawals is not just that people who feel the burden of taxation to be heavy want to get rid of the church taxes, but behind this reason, it must be admitted, lies the fact that people feel unfamiliar with the Church and believe that they have no need for it. For a long time they have had only a very slight connection with the life of the congregation.

The consequence of the withdrawals must be an acknowledgment that strict economy is essential, but far more important, the acknowledgment that the Church must intensify its efforts to reach people and must make a special contribution towards the "forgotten groups" among the members of the congregations, e.g. the men and the middle-aged.

The Church and the Trade-Union Movement.

A number of Christian workers in Finland are reticent or actually negatively inclined towards the trade-union movement, and this has caused the Finland-Swedish weekly "Församlingsbladet" to take up the matter of the Church and the trade-unions from the point of view of principle in a leading article.

The paper finds no clash of interests between the two parties. In our day there is no longer any talk of master and servant in an

industrial enterprise, but of two equal parties, which, through an agreement about certain conditions, promise to give each other what they have to offer: the workers their labour and abilities, the employers work and pay. The organizations looking after the interests of employers and workers have been created in order to facilitate this collaboration. These organizations, i.e. also the trade-unions, are thus natural and legitimate phenomena in a society governed by the democratic principles. They exist in order to establish a social equilibrium in the community and to safeguard social justice.

With this argumentation in mind it is maintained that it is the duty of the Christian worker to strive for social justice within the framework of the trade-unions, by which he serves his neighbour as well as the community. This solidarity is described as a direct consequence of the Christian commandment about charity.

NORWAY

Death of Bishop Eivind Berggrav.

On January 14th Bishop Eivind Berggrav died in his home in Oslo, 74 years of age. It is not without reason that Bishop Berggrav has been called the Primate of the Northern Churches after the death of Archbishop Nathan Söderblom, Sweden. He was appointed Bishop of Hålogaland (Tromsø) in 1926, and from 1937-1950 he was the leading Bishop of Norway as Bishop of Oslo. During latter years he suffered from a weak heart. In 1925 he became Doctor of Divinity on a religious-psychological thesis and later on he received honorary doctorates from universities in a great number of countries. For a number of years he was a prominent member of the ecumenical movement, and from 1950-1954 one of the Presidents of the World Council of Churches. He was President of the International Bible Society. During the War he played an outstanding part in Norway where he was the clever and masterful leader of the Church in its opposition to Nazi encroachments. It was he who was at the back of the establishment of the religious co-operative organ "Kristent Samråd" (Christian Joint Council), of the resignation of the bishops, and of the formulation of the confessional document "Kirkens Grund" (The Foundation of the Church) . He was placed under house arrest by the Germans, but succeeded in making good friends with his guards. Bishop Berggrav has written a number of books and was for 50 years the editor of the always stimulating periodical "Kirke og Kultur" (Church and Culture).

The Northern Churches and the ecumenical movement have all suffered a grievous loss at the death of Bishop Berggrav.

"A Normal Working Year for the Norwegian Church".

In a New Year's interview in the Christian daily in Oslo "Vårt Land" Bishop Johannes Smemo, Oslo, states that 1958 must be described as an ordinary working year in the life of the Church without any apparent controversies within the Church itself or any outstanding events - rather like a normal year of the Church should be. The Bishop mentions the activity in Church life and the voluntary contributions of 20-30 mill. Norwegian crowns annually towards foreign and home missions as proof of the spiritual force which Christianity still possesses in the Norwegian people.

To a question about revivals in the congregations Bishop Smemo answers that evidently a permanent quiet revival takes place in the congregations as well as the voluntary organizations. But revival today does not mean the same as it did 20 years ago. At that time it meant that an out-and-out worldly-minded person became deeply moved by the preaching of the Law. Now a revival just as often means an awakening from the dormant faith of one's childhood and it must, consequently, have a psychologically different form.

In Oslo the Church and the Christian voluntary organizations are in better contact with the young people, the Bishop says, and takes this development as a sign of, first and foremost, a growing need in the young people themselves. The kind of youth with which the Church has the best contact are the undergraduates and the school students.

The Bishop's special wish for the New Year is a new Education Act which pays due reverence to the idea of a Christian school as represented by the Norwegian Constitution and, up to now, in accordance with the will of the nation.

10 Conferences on Church and Industry in One Year.

The Norwegian Congregational Institute has published a report on its work during 1958 and from this it appears that, among other things there have been 9 conferences during the year for representatives of the industrial population and the Church, as well as a special conference on the ethical-theological and practical-religious problems in connection with Church and Industry. It is planned to continue with such conferences in the future as well as with similar ones dealing with the Church and modern village community.

The Institute has conducted a number of courses for parochial council members and other congregational workers aiming at cultivating actively engaged local congregations. These courses have proved both useful and popular and it is planned to continue these also.

Finally the family consultative service is mentioned which aims at helping married couples with their problems and counteract divorces. The great need for this service has been proved and many have availed themselves of it.

It is emphasized in the annual report that the Institute is to be an organ within the Lutheran National Church and is neither above, below, or side by side with anything already going on, but part of it all. "If, in this entity, we should succeed in being of service to and an inspiration for the furthering of the Kingdom of God in our people, then the purpose of the Institute has been fulfilled."

Two Distinctive Church Dedications in Oslo.

Last month two distinctive church dedications took place in Oslo. The first one was the dedication of a chapel in the "Socialbygge", a work centre for the work among tramps and habitual drunkards of the Oslo Home Mission. In his inaugural address Bishop Johannes Smemo gave it the name of "Chapel of Power" and expressed the wish that the chapel, which is situated in the basement of the building might become the basis, in the true sense of the work, of the activities taking place on the premises of "Socialbygge".

Shortly after a church was dedicated in the new residential section of Veitvedt. The church is rather small, but conveniently arranged and equipped and intended as an "everyday church". It is built into a block of business premises in the middle of the town's shopping-centre and has, by the way, cost only one tenth of the amount usually calculated for a traditional big church. The Small Churches Association in Oslo has put up the church. The task of the new church was characterized by Bishop Smemo by his calling it the "buldozer church".

High Tension in Norwegian Church Life.

In a leader the Christian daily paper in Bergen "Dagen" deals with the tension which for many years has been characteristic of Norwegian Church life. It is now no longer only a tension between institutional and voluntary church activities, but something new has been added, viz. the so-called "new church initiative" which is partly voluntary, partly institutional. Attention is drawn to the Church Academy movement in particular and it is emphasized that so far the new ideas have found a better reception in the established Church than in the voluntary organizations. A book on the Academy movement published recently is very critical of the "old church activities" and seems to comprise a new Christian outlook.

The "Dagen" appeals to the Norwegian Church Academy, one of the new religious institutions, to dissociate itself from a recently published formulation of the aim of the Academy as being that of "rallying the laity for action under the leadership of the minister". Such a dissociation is necessary in order that the bow is not bent so hard that it must snap.

SWEDEN

No Woman Pastor Ordained Yet.

The much disputed Act allowing women to take holy orders in the Swedish Lutheran National Church came into force on January 1st, but no woman has been ordained as yet. Miss Brita Olén who herself, as mentioned in CN No. 41, hoped to be the first woman pastor could not be ordained because she did not intend to stay in the country. She was married this month to a Reformed minister and has settled in South Africa.

According to press reports the Swedish Church Assembly's acceptance of women pastors must be taken to be the underlying reason for the fact that the Anglican Church was not represented, as at first decided, when Bishop Ljungberg, Stockholm, recently ordained the new Bishop of the Zulu Church, Helge Fosseus, in Johannesburg (South Africa).

The newly established "Kyrklig samling kring bibeln och bekännelsen" (Church Fellowship Based on Bible and Confession) which was founded by the opponents of women pastors has begun the publication of a weekly called "Svensk Pastoraltidskrift". It is addressed to clergymen in particular, but also to teachers interested in theology and other laymen. Among the contributors to the weekly, which is edited by the Rev. Tage Bentzer, Stockholm, is Bishop Bo Giertz, Gothenburg. It must be regarded as a competitor to the "Svensk Kyrko-

tidning" which is published in connection with the Swedish Clergymen's Association and is positively inclined towards the question of women pastors. In an introductory article in a specimen copy it says that the periodical will take its stand on the teachings of the Catholic and Apostolic Church, its confession and practice as founded in Holy Script, maintained by tradition and expressed in the Confessional documents.

From an extraordinary clergymen's meeting in the Diocese of Västerås a statement has been issued in which the divergin view on women pastors is set forward and a thorough study of the questions connected with it is recommended. The statement concludes:

"Regardless of the differences of opinion we are convinced that the matters uniting us are much greater than those separating us. Thus we are agreed about the essential importance of ranging ourselves more solidly behind the Word and the Confession of our Church. Only on the foundation of the Word and the Confession it is possible for the Church to survive and to become renewed. - We consider it of great importance that the Church becomes more independent of the State. As to the future we wish to state that the National Church should not be regarded in such a way that matters of faith may be decided by a majority vote. Holy Script alone is the standard of the faith of the Church."

Call to Prayer About Atomic Energy and Man.

In the annual call to prayer on the "Great Days of Prayer" which was published recently in connection with the Government appeal to the population to unite in prayer on the four Days of Prayer in the New Year, the Archbishop Gunnar Hultgren dealt with the question of atomic energy and man. The Archbishop writes:

"Among the many kinds of worry and disquiet crowding in on us, there is one outstanding one. Enormous victories have been won by man in his struggle for subjugation of the powers of nature. A power has been placed in his hands which offers him undreamt-of possibilities for shaping his existence and his fate. But how will he use it - for good or for evil, for constructive work or for destruction, annihilation and death? Does one dare to hope that man will measure up to the greater responsibility following with the greater power? Or must one fear that he will fail in the test and succumb to the temptation of power? These are questions of importance to individuals and nations alike in their relations with one another. At the bottom of them lies the question of man and God. Would our mutual relationship not be a different one if we were really in earnest about believing in one common Lord who is above us all? But how is it possible to find room for such a faith in a man who, in the knowledge of his power, exalts himself to lord and creator? - In a time big with fate the Church wants to let the word of God show us the way ahead with the Days of Prayer. The word of God reveals and judges our sin in will and deed, our negligence in listening to God, and our failing solidarity with one another, so that it may call forth the penitence and penance which consists in conversion and a new change of mind."

Opposition to Roman-Catholic Convent in Sweden.

With the recommendation of the Roman-Catholic Bishop the Theresia Foundation in Lund has applied to Government for permission to set up a convent for Carmelite nuns in Glumslöv in Skåne; but the Swedish Advisory Council to the Government, to which the application has been submitted, advises against giving such permission. The answer from Government has not yet been decided.

The Advisory Council to the Government points out that the convent would be occupied predominantly by foreign sisters in as much as there is only one Swedish sister for the time being besides six nuns from Gent who have been living in Sweden since 1956. Should Government, nevertheless, grant the permission the Advisory Council feels that it should be on the condition that most of the members of convent become Swedish citizens after some years. At the same time it is felt that, in consideration of personal freedom, it must be stipulated that women who have taken the vow, but later on wish to leave the convent, should not be prevented from doing so for fear of punishments of a religious nature. Furthermore, it is suggested that women should be 21 years of age for entering the convent and 25 years for taking the vows.

The Theresia Foundation has declared itself ready to accept the conditions proposed by the Advisory Council if permission is granted. - In that case the convent will be the first really Roman-Catholic convent in Sweden since the Reformation.

Spiritual Care Over the Telephone Open for Both National and Free Churches.

In answer to a question in the Swedish Parliament the Minister of Communications, Mr. Skoglund, said that the National Church as well as the Free Churches, which might want it, are to have equal access to place their ministers at the disposal of the spiritual care over the telephone which may be called on the number for emergencies. Such spiritual care has been established in a number of Swedish towns. The matter may be arranged so that either the National Church and the Free Church ministers take turns at being on duty or so that those wanting assistance themselves choose between being referred to a minister in the National Church or in a Free Church.

News in Brief:

- A Gallup poll has shown that 75% of the Swedes should want to be members of the Swedish Lutheran National Church even though a special application for membership should become necessary in the case of a separation between the State and the National Church.

- Last month a major in the National Chinese Army, James Ma, was ordained minister in Falun by the former Bishop of Trankebar (India), Johannes Sandegren. James Ma is to serve as a minister in Liverpool, England, where there are 3.000 Chinese.

- The Swedish Government has appointed the Rev. Åke Zetterberg Dean of Stockholm. Dean Zetterberg is known as a Social-Democratic M.P. and President of the Christian Social-Democratic Brotherhood Movement.

- On December 26th, which is the Swedish Mission Covenant Church collection day in the churches, the collections amounted to more than 2 million Swedish crowns which will be used for foreign mission work. This church employs 250 missionaries in active service.